Docket JP920000136US1

Appl. No.: 09/826,710
Filed: April 5, 2001

IN THE CLAIMS

Please enter amendments as indicated below:

1. (currently amended) In a computer environment, a method for searching data to locate a portion of said data identified by a search query, the method comprising:

(5a) receiving a search query including two or more data fragments expected to be contained within said data;

(3b) searching the data to locate matches between the data and the respective data fragments; and

identifying a minimal portion of said data that contains matches with all of the data fragments, wherein at least one of the data fragments appears only once in the minimal portion.

2. (original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising identifying a portion of said data containing all of said data fragments and extending between:

an end location which is the location of the first match with that one of said data fragments which is the last to appear in the data; and

a start location which is the location of the match, next preceding said end location, with that one of the said data fragments which is the first to appear in the data.

3. (original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(i)   receiving said data in a computer memory;

(ii)   receiving a search query comprising two or more data fragments;

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(iii)   searching the data to locate matches between the data and the respective data

fragments;

(iv)   recording the memory addresses of said matches;

(v)   for each match, identifying any partial overlap with any other match;

(vi)   for any such partial overlap, searching said data to seek a new match which does

not overlap any other match; and

(vii)   identifying a portion of said data from the location of the first to the last

non-overlapping match.

4.   (original) A method according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(i)   storing the data fragments in computer memory as a string variable;

(ii)   searching the data to locate the first match between the data and each data

fragment and, for each data fragment, store the location of that first match as a respective pointer

variable;

(iii)   by reference to the pointer variables and the string lengths of the data fragments

determining any partial overlaps between said matches;

(iv)   for any such partial overlap, searching the data to locate the next match with the

relevant data fragment and store the location of that next match in a respective further pointer

variable;

(v)   by reference to said pointer variables determining any remaining partial overlaps

between said matches and repeat step (iv) until there is identified a portion of said data

containing all of said data fragments without any overlaps therebetween.

5. (original) A method according to Claim 1, including displaying said data upon a display screen and highlighting said identified portion of data.

6. (currently amended) A system for searching data to locate a portion of said data identified by a search query, the apparatus comprising:

input means for receiving a search query including two or more data fragments;

data supply means for supplying data to be searched;

control means connected to said input means and said data supply means and operable for searching data made available by the data supply means to locate matches between the data and the respective data fragments, and means for registering information identifying a minimal portion of said data that contains matches with all of the data fragments, wherein at least one of the data fragments appears only once in the minimal portion.

7. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a body of computer code for rendering a computer operable for searching data to locate a portion of the data identified by a user supplied search query, the product comprising:

a computer code portion for enabling the computer to receive a search query including two or more data fragments;

a computer code portion for directing the computer to search said data to locate matches between the data and the respective data fragments; and

a computer code portion for causing the computer to identify a minimal portion of said data that contains matches with all of said data fragments, wherein at least one of the data fragments appears only once in the minimal portion.